

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11

NSC-07 RSC-01 CIEP-03 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

LAB-06 SIL-01 INT-08 L-03 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

DRC-01 /191 W

----- 070592

R 271135Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6460

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

NEJMA/AMEMBASSY MANILA 592

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MANILA PASS USADB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECRE, EFIN, PK

SUBJECT: TARBELA DAM PROBLEMS

REF: ISLAMABAD 8105

1 SUMMARY: NEW EVIDENCE INDICATES POTENTIALLY
SERIOUS DAMAGE TO TUNNEL TWO RESULTING IN DECISION TO
UTILIZE ALL FOUR TUNNELS TO DRAWDOWN RESERVOIR LEVEL.
UNTIL RESERVOIR DRAINED TO TUNNEL LEVEL PERMITTING
ACCESS BY ENGINEERS, IT IS NOT RPT NOT POSSIBLE TO EVALUATE
TIME OR COST OF REPAIRS. END SUMMARY.

2.ON AUGUST 24 LARGE PIECES OF CONCRETE AND REINFORCING
ROD WERE OBSERVED COMING FROM TUNNEL TWO. DECISION THEN
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MADE TO OPEN TUNNELS THREE AND FOUR WHICH HAD ALREADY

SUFFERED CONCRETE EROSION IN ORDER TO DRAIN RESERVOIR AS FAST AS POSSIBLE. NOW ALL FOUR TUNNELS ARE DISCHARGING. TO MINIMIZE EROSION DAMAGE ON TUNNELS THREE AND FOUR, ONE OF TWO OUTLET GATES ON EACH TUNNEL REMAINS CLOSED. CREWS PRESENTLY TEARING OUT ERODED AREAS BELOW THESE CLOSED GATES TO EXPEDITE REPAIRS IN ORDER TO UTILIZE THESE CHANNELS FOR RIVER FLOW DURING THE REPAIRS TO TUNNELS ONE AND TWO AND THE OTHER OUTLET GATE AREAS OF TUNNELS THREE AND FOUR.

3. TUNNELS PRESENTLY DISCHARGING AT RATE OF 383,000 CUSECS. IN TWO DAYS RESERVOIR ELEVATION LOWERED 29 FEET. IF RIVER IN FLOW REMAINS AT RECENT AVERAGE AND NO FURTHER TUNNEL PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED REQUIRING CLOSURES, DRAWDOWN COULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN TWO-THREE WEEKS. HOWEVER, ENGINEERS WILL ONLY COMMIT THEMSELVES TO DRAWDOWN BY OCTOBER 1. REASONABLE ESTIMATE OF TIME AND COST REQUIRED FOR REPAIRS WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS AFTER ENGINEERS HAVE ACCESS TO TUNNEL ONE AND TWO GATES. AS THESE TUNNEL INLETS ARE SLIGHTLY LOWER THAN INLETS TO TUNNELS THREE AND FOUR, FULL ACCESS TO GATES MAY REQUIRE PLUGGING TUNNEL INLETS.

4. ON VISIT TO SITE AUGUST 21 PRIOR TO SURFACING OF LATEST PROBLEMS, MISSION OFFICERS WERE TOLD THAT TUNNEL PROBLEMS SHOULD CAUSE NO DELAY IN POWER HOUSE CONSTRUCTION. REASON GIVEN WAS THAT TUNNELS ONE AND TWO WOULD HAVE TO BE SHUTDOWN IN ANY CASE FOR INSTALLATION MAIN TUNNEL GATES AND DIVERSION FACILITIES ON TUNNEL ONE FROM PRESENT OUTLET INTO POWER HOUSE. ESTIMATE THEN WAS THAT FLOW THROUGH TUNNEL ONE INTO POWER HOUSE FOR TESTING PURPOSES WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED UNTIL LATE 1976. IT WAS BELIEVED THAT ANY REPAIRS COULD BE COMPLETED BY THAT TIME. DELAYS KNOWN PREVIOUSLY IN DELIVERY OF POWER HOUSE EQUIPMENT RESULTED IN THREE-MONTH SLIPPAGE IN COMPLETION DATE.

5. EMBASSY HAS HEARD ROUGH GUESSTIMATES FROM ENGINEERS OF POSSIBLE COST OF REPAIRS IN RANGE US \$5-100 MILLION. IBRD RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE OBSERVED TO EMBOFF THAT RELATIVE TO TOTAL COST OF PROJECT AND PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN OTHER CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS OF THIS SIZE, EVEN \$100 MILLION IS NOT DISASTROUS.

6. RECOMMEND ANYONE FOLLOWING THIS PROBLEM IN WASHINGTON MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH IBRD WHICH IS RECEIVING FREQUENT REPORTS DIRECTLY FROM GIBBS, TAMS AND HARZA. BYROADE

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